

Docket 61510
Serial No. 10/776,724

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action on the merits dated April 13, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing 5 amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 3, 5-7, and 10-17 have been canceled, claims 1 and 8 have been amended, and claim 21 has been newly added. Therefore, claims 1-2, 4, 8-9, and 18-20 remain in this application with claims 1, 18, and 21 being independent.

10 IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings stand objected to in that a capacitor being charged when said primary power source is enabled is not shown. The applicant believes that this feature is, in fact, shown sufficiently to support the claims. Specifically, Fig. 3 shows the operation "Charge Capacitor" identified by reference numeral 60. Further, this operation occurs downstream of the operation 15 entitled "Power Switch On" identified at 50 and upstream of the operation "Wait for power switch to be turned off" at 62. Therefore, this flowchart clearly indicates that a "capacitor [is] being charged when said primary power source is enabled." A detailed description of this aspect of the drawing is presented on page 7 of the original application. Accordingly, the applicant believes that the indicated feature has been adequately shown in the drawings and respectfully 20 requests that the present objection be withdrawn.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim Objections:

Claim 3 is objected to as having a typographical error; namely "lampassembly"
5 should be "lamp assembly". The recitation of claim 3 has been amended to correct this error.
Claim 3 has been canceled as discussed below although claim 1 has been amended to include its
amended recitation.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

10 Claims 1, 2, and 5-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable
over McDonald (US 5,666,029) in view of Lott (US 20040263096). The examiner correctly
points out that McDonald discloses a secondary power source that takes over if the primary
power source is disabled. However, McDonald does not teach or suggest a means in the test
circuit for obtaining lamp voltage test data when the secondary power source is enabled for
15 evaluation indicative of operability of at least one lamp. This is essentially the subject matter
recited in claim 7 of the present disclosure. The significance of this recitation is that this
particular test (i.e. the test of lamp operability) can only be accomplished when the primary
power source is disabled. In other words, this test is accomplished every time the light switch
(which provides primary power) is switched off. Performing this test when the primary power
20 source is activated or only upon a power outage of primary power is a very different invention
than what is recited in the present application. The unique method and apparatus disclosed in the
present application and specifically in claims 5-7 is not taught or suggested in McDonald.
Without admitting the propriety of this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the

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limitations of claims 5-7 and claims 5-7 have been canceled. The subject matter previously contained in claim 7 has been amended to more clearly recite that the lamp assembly test occurs when the secondary power source is enabled and the primary power source is disabled. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully
5 requested.

Claims 3 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald and Lott in view of Lau (US 5,597,233). Regarding claim 3, the examiner stated that the subject matter recited in claim 3 would have been obvious in view of Lau. The applicant
10 strongly contends that the examiner has incorrectly read the Lau disclosure and that Lau, therefore, has been improperly combined with McDonald and Lott in support of the present rejection. The examiner stated: "Lau discloses light fixture with wire clips for connecting (engaging) wires." The clips (22) in Lau are merely for attaching a light fixture to a non-electrical ceiling bale (23) in a typical ceiling mount design. In other words, the clips (22) in Lau
15 have absolutely nothing to do with an assembly for releasably receiving and electrically connecting wires from a lamp assembly to a test circuit. Clearly, a typical mounting bale ceiling mount does not teach or suggest the first and second spaced apart sets of clips specifically configured to receive wires from a lamp system ballast, as is recited in claim 3. Therefore, the applicant requests that the Lau reference be removed from this rejection. Without admitting the
20 propriety of this rejection but to further advance this application to allowance, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitation of claim 3 and claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 1, therefore, should now be in even better condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

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Regarding claims 18-20, the applicant urges that these claims should be in condition for allowance for the same reasons advanced above with reference to claim 3. Further, the examiner rejects claims 18-20 over Lau on page 5 of the office action but does not apply the teaching of Lau or any other reference specifically to some of the elements recited in claims 18-

- 5 20. More particularly, claim 18 recites a plurality of wire release buttons coupled to respective wire receiving clips with each wire release button including a color indicia corresponding to a color of a respective wire. Lau, whether considered singly or in combination with any other reference, does not teach or suggest a plurality of wire release buttons or that each button includes a color indicia. For these additional reasons in addition to the reasons advanced relative
10 to claim 3, claims 18-20 should be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald and Lott in view of Moisin (US 5,798,617). Without admitting the propriety of this rejection and in view of the amendment to claim described above, claim 4 has been canceled.

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- Without admitting the propriety of any of the present rejections, claim 21 has been newly added and includes all of the limitations of amended claim 1 as well as the limitation of a plurality of wire release buttons and each button includes a color indicia corresponding to a color of a respective wire. For all of the reasons advanced earlier, claim 21 should be in condition for
20 allowance and such is respectfully requested.

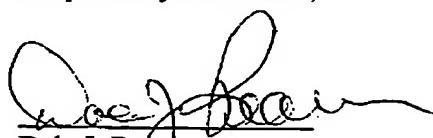
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This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 5.
Date: June 29, 2005


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